



Our Country, her Commerce, and her Free Institutions.

VOLUME I.

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Ottawa is the seat of justice of La Salle county; is situated at the junction of the Fox river with the Illinois, 290 miles, by water, from Saint Louis, and mid-way between Chicago and Peoria. The population of Ottawa is about one thousand.

THE FREE TRADER.

Ottawa, Friday, June 19, 1840.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

Opposition to a National Bank, as fraught with danger to our free institutions and to the liberties of the people, from its necessarily great and controlling power over the general currency and business of the country. Opposition to the present Banking System, as defective in principle and unsafe in practice, and requiring a radical reform. A total separation of the fiscal concerns of Government from all Banking Institutions, as the best guarantee for the preservation of our National Independence. Encouragement to all Banks, based upon sound principles, with the ability and disposition at all times to redeem their bills in gold and silver, and an express provision in all Bank Charters, requiring ample security to be given to the State for the redemption of their issues in specie on demand, and the perpetual subjection of all acts of incorporation to the control of the Legislature.

Agents for the Illinois Free Trader.
The following gentlemen are authorized to act as agents of this paper, viz:

M. MOTT, Peru, La Salle county, Ill.
D. S. EAGAN, mail contractor,
C. G. MILLER, Dayton,
A. O. SMITH, Smith's Mills,
JASON GURLEY, Troy Grove,
L. W. DUNN, Vermilionville,
HENRY PHILLIPS, Munson, (Indian creek.)
C. W. REYNOLDS, P. M. Pontiac.

Post Masters, and other individuals residing in La Salle and the adjoining counties, who are willing to act as agents in their respective neighborhoods, will please make the same known to us, by mail or otherwise.

Amos Kendall.

Our readers will find in another column, the address of this individual to the "People of the United States." It will be seen that Mr. K. is "big with hope" and enters the political arena with vigor and spirit. The Opposition dread his caustic pen, and well they may.

Democratic Meeting in Kane County.

In pursuance of a notice given by the Central Corresponding Committee of Kane county, a democratic meeting was held at Geneva, on the 26th day of May, for the purpose of better organizing the party and responding to the nomination made at the same time on the 12th of May. HON. JACOB HERINGTON was called upon and said: O. D. Day appointed Secretary.

On motion of H. N. Chapman, a committee of five was appointed, consisting of D. Dunham, R. V. M. Croes, J. Griggs, H. N. Chapman and William Harper, to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of said meeting, who, after a short absence, returned and reported the following resolutions:

Resolved, That, in the present administration, we believe the principles of Jefferson and Jackson are advocated and practised, and that we believe MARTIN VAN BUREN and Col. RICHARD M. JOHNSON are true and trusty and well qualified to perform the duties of the offices which they now hold, and are entitled to the support of all the citizens of these United States, save that part who are in favor of monopolies, titles and an aristocratical form of government.

Resolved, That we believe the principles and talents of the man are the qualifications necessary to entitle him to the confidence of the people, notwithstanding it is said all the talents and decency naturally belong to those who qualify themselves by drinking hard cider and living in log cabins.

Resolved, That we will not support any persons for office unless they be of sound democratic principles and will not hesitate to avow them at any time or place.

Resolved, That we approve of the nomination of A. R. DODGE, Esq., as a candidate to be supported as Representative to the next Legislature from the La Salle district; and will use all fair and honorable means to secure his election.

Resolved, That we believe the minority should be willing to submit to the will of the majority; and that this is democratic doctrine, although it has been said by some that the people could not govern themselves.

Resolved, That we deprecate the conduct of these individuals, availing them-

has been made by the convention, bolt from the nomination upon the plea of immorality of the nominee, when, in reality, their only cause of dissatisfaction is disappointment.

Which Resolutions were adopted.

On motion of D. Dunham, a Central Corresponding Committee was appointed by the chair, consisting of the following persons: O. D. Day, D. Dunham, R. V. M. Croes, D. Wheeler and Stephen Archer.

Voted, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the democratic papers at Ottawa, Juliet and Chicago.

The meeting then adjourned to meet again at the Court House, at 7 o'clock P. M., where it was addressed by J. M. Strode, H. Brown and U. Osgood, who well and ably defended the principles of democracy; and it then adjourned sine die. J. HERINGTON, Chairman.
O. D. Day, Secretary.

De Kalb County Democratic Convention.

At a meeting of the Democrats of De Kalb county, held at the court house in Sycamore, on the evening of June 4th, during the sitting of the Circuit Court for said county, JESSE C. KELLOGG, Esq., was called to the Chair, and MARTIN M. HACK appointed Secretary.

Whereupon Levi Lee, Eli G. Jewell and Jesse C. Kellogg, Esqrs. were appointed a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of this meeting. The committee then reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, 1st. That, in the present crises of our National affairs, our country has a right to expect that every Democrat will "do or die" to save her from any insidious foe who threatens death to her civil and religious liberty.

2d. That, as a portion of the Democracy of this county, we most sincerely and deeply regret that local questions and considerations have been suffered to disturb that harmony of feeling and concert of action, which the principles of Democracy in their primitive purity, never fail to originate and ensure, and which should, at the present moment, fire every democratic heart and nerve every democratic arm in this County, State and Nation.

3d. That we, as Democrats, approve of the Convention system as a proper means of presenting candidates for office to a free people for their suffrages; that we entertain the fullest confidence in the integrity and ability of A. R. DODGE, Esq., the nominee of the La Salle District Convention for Representative to the Legislature of this State, that we believe him to be a sound and efficient Democrat, and that, if elected, while discharging the sacred duties of a Legislator, he will never become the tool of any "local parties," which do or may exist in any part of his District, and that he will never sacrifice the rights of the many for the aggrandizement of the few, and that said nominee, having been regularly and fairly presented to the people of this District for their suffrage, every honest and consistent Democrat in this county and district, discharging sectional prejudices and petty questions of a local nature, is bound to yield him his candid and hearty support.

4th. That the Democratic yeomanry of De Kalb county do not deem the present scarcity of good money in this community as the fault either of the present or preceding administration of the General Government, the leading measures of which they most cordially approve, that the eloquent and sublime touches of whig oratory so recently displayed in this court room, have utterly failed to convince us that we are a degraded, distressed and unhappy people, while a gracious providence fills our barns and stack-yards with plenty, and our cabins, not with "hard cider," but with an abundance of all the necessities of life.

5th. That we cordially approve of the nomination of the candidates for Presidential Electors made by the Democratic Convention at Springfield in December last, and that we will use all lawful and honorable means to procure their election and thereby secure the re-election of Martin Van Buren.

6th. That we cordially approve of the present administration, believing that they are well calculated to promote the best interests of our country, and that we regard the passage of the Independent Treasury Bill, as demanded by the best interests of the American people.

7th. That R. Cotton, Jesse C. Kellogg, John R. Hamlin, Frederick Love and Austin Hayden be appointed a Central Committee for said county.

8th. That Levi Lee, Eli G. Jewell, Rufus Cotton, David Merrill, and H. N. Perkins be appointed a corresponding committee for said county.

9th. That the Chairman nominate a vigilance committee for each precinct in

named persons were appointed as said committee: Franklin Precinct—M. M. Mack, F. S. Watkins, P. Barrett, and S. Wells; Kingston—Jonas Haight, G. H. Hill, and Thomas Robb; Kishwaukee—J. C. Kellogg, Wm. A. Miller, and Ira Pierce; Sycamore—D. Waldratt, Eli Barnard, and C. Waterman; Orange—R. Huntley, C. F. Murray, and F. R. Curtis; Ohio—Hiram Bell, J. Derby, and E. Hanson; Somanuk;—John Easterbrook, D. D. Bullard and Robert Sterrett; Pau-pau—E. Butterfield, C. B. Whitford, and J. Ross.

10th. That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and be published in the Chicago Democrat, Juliet Courier, Ottawa Free Trader, and State Register.

JESSE C. KELLOGG, Ch'n.
MARTIN M. HACK, Secretary.

Mr. Kendall's Address to the People of the United States.

Our country presents a new spectacle for the contemplation of mankind.

A candidate for the Presidency is asking the suffrages of our people, and at the same time refuses to answer the questions they put to him for the purpose of satisfying themselves as to the principles and policy by which he will be governed, if elected. With his own consent, a committee is interposed between him and his countrymen, not to aid him in giving frank replies to their reasonable inquiries, but to cut off direct communication, and keep his opinions from the public. A free and intelligent people, whose precious right it is to ask and obtain the views of every man who seeks their suffrages, upon every topic appertaining to their government, are bluntly told that they shall not enjoy this right, but shall take a candidate for the Presidency upon trust. They are asked to relax that "eternal vigilance," which is truly "the price of liberty," and blindly submit themselves, if not to a "King who can do no wrong," to a Chief Magistrate who assumes the attitude of irresponsibility and surrounds himself with ministers, even before the crown of power has been placed on his head!

This candidate was nominated by a convention, not because they considered him the ablest man of their party, or at all qualified for the station, but merely because he had once been a General. Having seen the people place the heroic Jackson in the chair of state, notwithstanding their unceasing denunciations of "military chieftains," they weakly expect to avail themselves, in their struggle for power, of the same devotion and enthusiasm, by presenting the name of another who had worn the uniform of his county, and attained to the same rank. They did not accord to the people sense enough to discriminate between the weak and inefficient chieftain, who, after a series of military blunders, fortunately for his country resigned his commission in the midst of the war, and the real hero who took it up and closed that war in a blaze of glory at New Orleans.

Under this fatal error, the convention, instead of presenting in an address or resolutions the principles which would control the administration of their candidate, if elected, concerted a general movement throughout the Union to give eclat to their nomination by a simultaneous shout to the military glories, which, after an oblivion of twenty-five years, are now for the first time discovered to be worthy of commemoration in feasts and in song. We have accordingly seen vast assemblages collected together, at great labor and cost, not to respond to any principle, or listen to any argument, but to drown the voice of reason in the shouts of revelry, and lead captive the feelings of the people in a senseless excitement. Huzzas for the newly-found hero, annunciations of his poverty, of his residence in a log-cabin, and love of hard cider; the hauling of miniature log-cabins, and canoes, and cider barrels through the streets; the rolling of balls, and the display of banners with unmeaning mottoes; doggerel rhymes and vulgar pictures; the drinking of cider, the mumbling of ginger-bread, and imitating the cries of birds and beasts, with other mummery and mockery, as disgraceful to the country as it is insulting to the people, are the new means of electioneering, by which it is vainly expected to induce the community to surrender itself, like the charmed bird, to the jaws of the wily serpent which stands ready to devour it. By arguments like these, it is expected to persuade the freemen of America to surrender their right to know the political opinions of the candidates, and take him, for better or for worse, gagged and guarded as he is.

To these means of influence are added money without stint, abuse of official station and privilege without restraint, and violation of the laws without reserve. The Harrison party in Congress are leagued

with its "executive committee" appointing subordinate committees throughout the Union; raising money by tens of thousands to support presses, to magnify their mock hero, libel the Administration, and scatter delusion through the country; practising the most unheard of abuses, getting subscribers to a newspaper under a promise that they shall receive it under frank, violate the law by actually franking it, and devoting their money, their talents, their privileges, and their time, not to the business of legislation for which they were elected, but to an unscrupulous and unceasing warfare upon another department of the Government. The public business is delayed, the public faith violated, and the ordinary operations of the Government obstructed, that the session of Congress may be protracted; thus furnishing the influence of public station, the facilities of frank and money from the Treasury, to carry on their electioneering operations. In some cases electioneering tracts, franked by members of Congress, weighing more than they had a right to frank, have been falsely marked "public documents," to insure their free transportation; and in others, the frank of members has been boldly forged! What would be said of the Executive officers here, if they were to form such a club, appoint such a committee, and resort to such means? Would not the very men who are now committing abuses and outrages a thousand times more aggravated than any they charge against the Administration, sound the tocsin of alarm upon a thousand hills, and startle the country with the threatening danger? And are these combinations less alarming, less corrupt, less dangerous, or less criminal, in one department of the Government than in another?

CONTEMPT FOR THE PEOPLE lies at the bottom of this whole scheme of electioneering.

The Harrison party showed this contempt in presenting "a military chieftain" as their candidate, after having for years denounced the elevation of such men as worse for the country than "war, pestilence, and famine, or any other scourge."

They show it by presenting a sham hero to the people, and endeavoring to persuade them that he is a real one.

They show it by asking the people to vote for a gagged and guarded candidate, who "will answer the questions of neither friends nor foes."

They show it by abandoning all argument, and throwing principle out of the contest.

They show it by their log-cabins, cider barrels, pitchers, canoes, balls, banners, pictures, parade, riot and drunkenness; fit only to amuse, if they did not disgust, a London populace or a Parisian mob.

They show it by their incessant and monstrous misrepresentations of the acts of the Administration, and their causeless abuse of the men who compose it.

Where is the true-hearted American who would not be ashamed of his country, if she could, by such means, be induced to abandon her right to question candidates for office, and throw herself unconditionally into the arms of a President and a party which has no principles, or dare not avow them?

From this contempt of the people springs the opposition of the leaders of this party to the extension of the right of suffrage, and their steady attempts to corrupt it when extended. Not believing the people fit for self government, they will not trust them with power when they can avoid it; and whenever the opportunity presents, take from them that which they possess. They do not scruple to compel their dependants to vote their will, at elections, instead of their own, and so to manage their private affairs as to reward or punish more humble men for the surrender or assertion of the right of free suffrage. Upon the same principle, they do not hesitate to cheat in the elections and cheat in the returns. Recall a few facts of recent occurrence, and it will be seen that I do them no injustice.

In 1838, the leaders of the present Harrison party had possession of the Government of Pennsylvania, in all its legislative and executive branches. By false registries, and the introduction of thousands of voters from abroad, they strove to elect a Governor and a majority of the House of Representatives, but were defeated. Instead of submitting to the decision of the people, they determined to disregard it and retain possession of the Government of the State at every hazard. From the county of Philadelphia, two Democratic Senators and eight Representatives had been elected, and it was so certified by a majority of the judges of the election; yet, though the Democratic majority was several hundreds, a minority of the judges sent a certificate to the office of the Secretary of State, declaring the Harrison

change of these eight members from one side to the other, would give them a majority of the House of Representatives. Fortified by this false certificate, and supported by the Governor and a majority of the Senate, the Secretary of State publicly advised his party to treat the election of Governor as if it had never been held, although the Democratic candidate had a majority of thousands! On the meeting of the Legislature, he sent in the false returns, and withheld the true ones. The Senate immediately admitted the returns. When the Democrats of the House received their introduction into that body, the Harrison party proceeded separately, in conjunction with the usurpers, to organize a House and choose their officers. The Democratic members did the same thing, in conjunction with the true Representatives from Philadelphia county. But, as the Governor and a majority of the Senate were of the Harrison party, all power was in their hands; and it became evident that they intended to create, by arbitrary power, a majority in the House, and set aside the election, not only of several Senators and Representatives, but that of Governor also!

This design, more bold, considering the people and the age, than the most daring usurpations of Caesar, Cromwell, or Napoleon, roused the spirit of '76; indignant multitudes poured into the capital; they organized a Committee of SAFETY, and prepared to assert the rights of the people. The affrighted Governor and his guilty counsellors, instead of receding from their foul design, denounced the people as rebels and determined to carry out the usurpation by force of arms! Troops were called out provided with "buckshot and ball cartridges;" the capital of the State resounded with the din of arms; and the peace of the Commonwealth seemed to be suspended upon a hair. Lest the militia of the State might show some reluctance to shoot down their own friends and subvert their own rights, the Governor had the audacity to request the aid of a body of the United States regulars, then in the vicinity, and to demand of the President, the aid of the army of the Union!

What, in this case, did the People ask? Nothing but the installation of their public officers, duly and constitutionally elected by large majorities. And why did not the Harrison party proceed in their monstrous design to deprive them of this dearest right of freemen: to treat the election as if it had not been held, and retain the possession of power at the point of the bayonet? Not because they relented or repented; not because they were not ready for blood and carnage, to put down the rights of the people; but because two of their number, and two only, refused to act out the scene, and receding from the usurping House of Representatives, left it without a quorum. As bold, unprincipled, and unscrupulous as they were, they dared not proceed when they could no longer shield usurpation under constitutional forms.

What on this occasion was the conduct of those who now constitute the Harrison party in other States? Did they denounce the usurpers and take the side of the people? No, almost to a man, they sustained, encouraged, and defended Governor Ritner and his daring associates. The people received from them but ferocious abuse, with the epithets of traitors and rebels. The attempt to cleave down by the sword the most precious rights of freemen, was everywhere applauded by them, showing that the same contempt for the people pervades that party throughout the Union.

And what have we seen at the present session of Congress? The House of Representatives kept in a state of disorganization for weeks, by an attempt to force into it, as members, five men from New Jersey, when five other men, notoriously and confessedly, had a majority of the votes given at the election. The "broad seal" of the Governor, though covering a known and acknowledged fraud, was held by them more sacred than the people's right of suffrage, and was considered a better title to a seat in Congress than a majority of the people's votes! This was not a Pennsylvania scene, probably because the Harrison party here had no Governor Ritner under their control to back the "broad seal" with "buckshot and ball;" but the contempt for the people, and the will to trample on their rights, were in both cases the same.

Freemen of the United States! Your liberties are not so safe as you may suppose. Think you, if Harrison had been President, the army of the United States would have been refused to his friends in Pennsylvania? Think you, that in such a condition of things, the people of that State could have maintained their right to a Governor and Legislature of their own

very scene of the Ritner usurpation, and by the influence of the leaders in that desperate effort, that the nomination of Harrison was effected! If elected, Ritner's advisers will be his advisers; the profligacy and daringness of that faction will be transferred to Washington; and their spirit will pervade the administration of the General Government. What have you to expect from it, but what you have seen them do? What, but that corruption and fraud in elections will pervade every State? What, but that majority candidates will be thrust into the State Legislatures, and "broad seal" members in Congress, at the point of the bayonet?

A flood of demoralization has swept over our land; and in some states it rests in stagnant pools, contaminating the atmosphere of liberty, and threatening death to every thing virtuous, noble, and free. It is to the monster Bank, which, having struggled in vain, by its blandishments, its corruptions and its terrors, to overcome the fearless and incorruptible man then at the head of the General Government, turned to the State Legislature where it found no difficulty in buying up Senators by the dozen, that the people of Pennsylvania were indebted for the profligacy exhibited in the attempt to subvert their liberties by the sword. To means furnished by the same and similar institutions, or those directly connected with them, if not even to the bankers of Europe, are the people of the United States undoubtedly now indebted, not only for the deprivation of morals which threatens to break up the foundations of society, but for a large portion of the means which enable the "Executive Committee" at Washington to prosecute their war against an honest and democratic Administration. It was by violating moral obligations and plundering their own people through the Bank of England, that the British Government was enabled to keep the world in arms during the scenes of the French Revolution; and the Whig parties in America are profiting by the example. Laws are violated with impunity; moral obligations scoffed at and derided; knavery walks the streets with the bold face of honesty; plunderers of the public and of public institutions obtain sympathy and forgiveness; and the Administration, which sternly sets its face against these evils and their authors, is sought to be made the victims of its firmness and integrity. If bad men are to be permitted to overthrow it, by means so profligate, and with motives so corrupt, what is to be expected, but that they proceed to aggrandize themselves upon the ruins of our free Government, and the enslavement of our people?

It will be my endeavor, as far as necessary, to vindicate the Administration from the foul aspersions cast upon it, and earnestly to inculcate—

That in the practice of a rigid morality alone, can men or nations justify look for happiness and safety;

That there is but one code of morals for private and public affairs;

That pure morality is true democracy, conceding to every one his rights, and seeking advantages of no one;

That every freeman has a right to know the political opinions of any candidate who is presented for his suffrages; and to demand of him that right, is a wrong and insult which strikes at the root of representative government, and is the adoption of a knave's principle;

That the cause of morality, freedom, and law; the interests of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce; the peace of the country; the rights of the people; and the improvement of their institutions, will be best promoted and secured by the election of Mr. Van Buren.

And, finally, that it is the inalienable duty of every man who wishes to preserve the blessings of an honest representative government, the rights of property, the faith of contracts, the honor of his country, and the freedom of man, to oppose, by all honorable means, the elevation of General Harrison, who already treats the people at defiance, while his friends mock and insult them by a childish and ridiculous mummery, fit only to amuse the wild natives of Africa.

The ferocity of the Harrison party is equal to their folly. In every attempt of rising hope they cannot restrain their jeers and taunts, their riotous parades, shouts of exultation, and groans of insult. While holding a high public station, I have seen my children spring in terror from their beds at the dead hour of midnight, in the belief that guns were fired into the windows of their chamber. It was the canon of Federalism in the street, where its myrmidons had collected to ready every insult their father with mock music, firing, shouts and groans.

The God of Liberty forbids that this spirit should ever get possession of our Government! And God will not permit